

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) In an optical recording medium which comprises:

a substrate and a recording layer provided on said substrate by using an organic dye compound and which records information by irradiating said recording layer with a writing light at a writing light wavelength to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said substrate, the improvement wherein

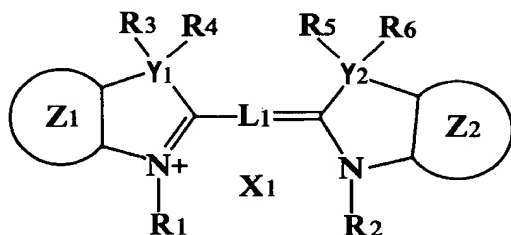
_____ said organic dye compound has an absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than said writing light, and

_____ said organic dye compound is used in combination with one or more members selected from the group consisting of nitroso compounds and metal complexes in an amount of 0.01 to 5 moles to one mole of said organic dye compound,

_____ wherein said writing light wavelength is 660 nm or shorter.

2. (Previously presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 1;

Formula 1:

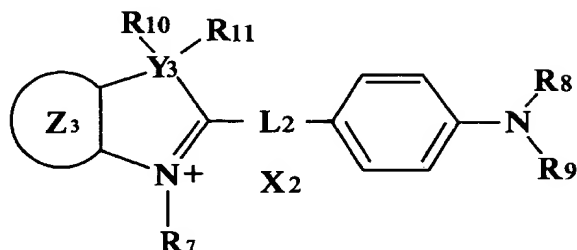


wherein in Formula 1, Z_1 and Z_2 denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y_1 and Y_2 independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R_1 and R_2 denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R_3 to R_6 independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y_1 and Y_2 are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of R_3 to R_6 does not exist; L_1 denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X_1 denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitric acid ion, phosphoric acid ion, perchloric acid ion, periodic acid ion, antimony hexafluoride ion, tin acid hexafluoride ion, fluoroboric acid ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanic acid ion, benzenesulfonic acid ion, naphthalenesulfonic acid ion, benzenecarboxylic acid ion, alkylcarboxylic acid ion, trihaloalkylcarboxylic acid ion, alkylsulfonic acid ion, trihaloalkylsulfonic acid ion, nicotinic acid ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

3. (Previously presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 2;

Formula 2:

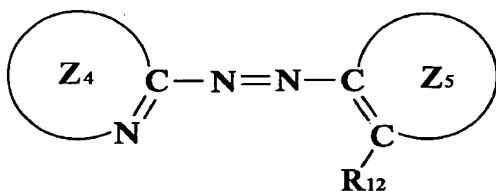


wherein in Formula 2, Z₃ denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring; Y₃ denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom; R₇ to R₉ denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y₃ is a hetero atom, R₁₀ and/or R₁₁ do not exist; L₂ denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X₂ denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitric acid ion, phosphoric acid ion, perchloric acid ion, periodic acid ion, antimony hexafluoride ion, tin acid hexafluoride ion, fluoroboric acid ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanic acid ion, benzenesulfonic acid ion, naphthalenesulfonic acid ion, benzenecarboxylic acid ion, alkylcarboxylic acid ion, trihaloalkylcarboxylic acid ion, alkylsulfonic acid ion, trihaloalkylsulfonic acid ion, nicotinic acid ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

4. (Previously presented) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound is a metal complex of an azo compound represented by Formula 3;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z₄ and Z₅ denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R₁₂ denotes an acid base.

5. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses a laser beam with a wavelength of 700 nm or less as a writing light.

6. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, wherein said organic dye compound has an absorption maximum with a wavelength less than 850 nm.

7. (Original) The optical recording medium of claim 1, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

8. (currently amended) In an optical recording method to record information by using an optical recording

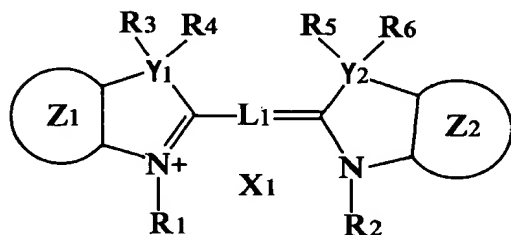
medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer provided on said substrate by using an organic dye compound and irradiating said recording layer with a writing light to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said substrate, the improvement comprising

using, as a main organic dye compound for forming pits, an organic dye compound which substantially absorbs a writing light with a wavelength ~~longer~~ shorter than the absorption maximum of said organic dye compound, and

irradiating a recording layer on a substrate with the writing light to form a pit on said substrate,

wherein said organic dye compound is used in combination with one or more members selected from the group consisting of nitroso compounds and metal complexes in an amount of 0.01 to 5 moles to one mole of said organic dye compound.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 1;
Formula 1:

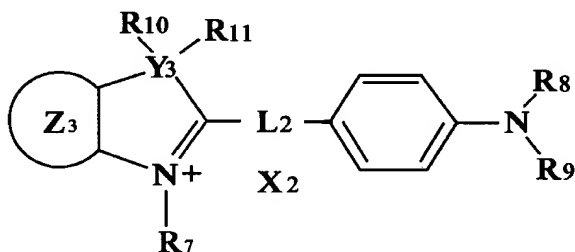


wherein in Formula 1, Z₁ and Z₂ denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y₁ and Y₂

independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R_1 and R_2 denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R_3 to R_6 independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y_1 and Y_2 are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of R_3 to R_6 does not exist; L_1 denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X_1 denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitric acid ion, phosphoric acid ion, perchloric acid ion, periodic acid ion, antimony hexafluoride ion, tin acid hexafluoride ion, fluoroboric acid ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanic acid ion, benzenesulfonic acid ion, naphthalenesulfonic acid ion, benzenecarboxylic acid ion, alkylcarboxylic acid ion, trihaloalkylcarboxylic acid ion, alkylsulfonic acid ion, trihaloalkylsulfonic acid ion, nicotinic acid ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is represented by Formula 2;
Formula 2:



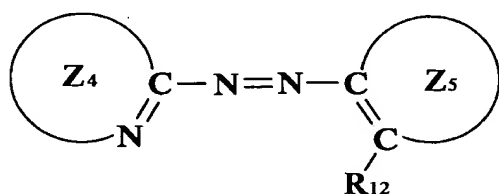
wherein in Formula 2, Z_3 denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring; Y_3 denotes a carbon atom or a hetero

atom; R_7 to R_9 denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R_{10} and R_{11} independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y_3 is a hetero atom, R_{10} and/or R_{11} do not exist; L_2 denotes a polymethine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and

X_2 denotes a compatible counter-ion selected from the group consisting of nitric acid ion, phosphoric acid ion, perchloric acid ion, periodic acid ion, antimony hexafluoride ion, tin acid hexafluoride ion, fluoro-boric acid ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, thiocyanic acid ion, benzenesulfonic acid ion, naphthalenesulfonic acid ion, benzenecarboxylic acid ion, alkylcarboxylic acid ion, trihaloalkylcarboxylic acid ion, alkylsulfonic acid ion, trihaloalkylsulfonic acid ion, nicotinic acid ion, trimethylammonium ion, and triethylammonium ion.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound is a metal complex of an azo compound represented by Formula 3;

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z_4 and Z_5 denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R_{12} denotes an acid base.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, which uses a laser beam with a wavelength of 700 nm or less as a writing light.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein said organic dye compound has an absorption maximum with a wavelength less than 850 nm.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)